



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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April 1, 2004

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: FI -03

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT  
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve the Department of Public Works to acquire maintenance equipment at a total cost of \$300,000 budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2003-04 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This request is to comply with the County Equipment Policy that your Board approved on October 16, 2001. This Policy requires Board approval prior to departments purchasing/financing equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater. Therefore, we are requesting approval to purchase a crawler dozer budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2003-04 Internal Service Fund Budget.

This purchase is a replacement for an existing D-6 Caterpillar Dozer used to repair debris basins, spreading basins and clear soft-bottom channels, rights of way, storm drain outlets, and other routine flood maintenance activities. The existing 21-year old D-6 Caterpillar Dozer has almost 9,000 hours of operation. The replacement criteria is 8,000 hours or 15 years. The existing D-6 Caterpillar Dozer will require expensive repairs in the near future due to severe engine oil leakage and an overheating cooling system. In addition, the existing unit lacks an environmental cab found on the Department's newer units and those rented from local vendors.

The cost to replace the existing D-6 Caterpillar Dozer with a current generation unit is \$300,000 and the expected life of a new D-6 is 8,000 hours or 15 years. A comparable unit rents for \$8,000 to \$9,000 per month or \$96,000 to \$108,000 per year. It is recommended that Public Works replace this unit with a new Low Ground Pressure (LGP) D-6 Caterpillar Dozer instead of renting a similar unit because:

- It will be more reliable than the existing D-6 Caterpillar Dozer for daily maintenance activities;
- It will have less downtime for repair and maintenance;
- It will be available at anytime of the day when rental equipment may not be available;
- It will be less costly over time than renting a similar unit;
- It will fully comply with current standards and regulations;

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goals for Service Excellence, Organizational Effectiveness, and Fiscal Responsibility. This action will enable Public Works to continue to provide County residents with enhanced responsive, efficient, and effective flood control maintenance.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The cost for this acquisition is \$300,000 and is included in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2003-04 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset appropriation. There is no impact to net County cost as a result of this purchase.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a policy whereby departments will obtain Board approval to purchase or finance equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions to Purchasing.

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**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The approval of this request will enable Public Works to continue to perform its routine flood maintenance activities in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

**CONCLUSION**

Your approval will allow Public Works to replace out-dated maintenance equipment and continue to provide flood control services to Los Angeles County residents.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

MB:ma

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel